

### **EXAMINER'S AMENDMENT**

An examiner's amendment to the record appears below. Should the changes and/or additions be unacceptable to applicant, an amendment may be filed as provided by 37 CFR 1.312. To ensure consideration of such an amendment, it MUST be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee.

Authorization for this examiner's amendment was given in a telephone interview with John Schipper on March 25, 2010.

The application has been amended as follows:

#### **IN THE CLAIMS:**

In claim 4, line 1, "49" is replaced with --50--.

In claim 9, line 1, "49" is replaced with --50--.

In claim 10, line 1, "49" is replaced with --50--.

In claim 11, line 1, "49" is replaced with --50--.

In claim 12, line 1, "49" is replaced with --50--.

Claim 49 is CANCELLED.

New Claim 50 has been added as follows:

Claim 50. "A composite structure, comprising:

a porous substrate, having a lower surface and an upper surface and comprising a selected substrate material and having a substrate coefficient of thermal expansion;

a first layer integrated with an exposed surface of the substrate, wherein the first layer material comprises between 20 percent and 60 percent

molybdenum disilicide, between 40 percent and 80 percent borosilicate glass and a processing aid, with the first layer being positioned adjacent to and between the substrate upper surface and a second layer having a material composition different from the first layer;

wherein the second layer material comprises between 5 percent and 70 percent tantalum disilicide, between 5 percent and 30 percent molybdenum disilicide, and between 10 percent and 95 percent borosilicate glass;

wherein a composition of the first layer is chosen so that a coefficient of thermal expansion of the first layer is approximately the same as the coefficient of thermal expansion of the substrate; and

wherein the combined first and second layers provide a protective layer when exposed to temperatures around 3000° F".

### ***Reasons For Allowance***

The following is an examiner's statement of reasons for allowance:

New claim 50 is fully supported by the specification, and the prior art of record fails to teach or render obvious the structure set forth in claim 50.

Any comments considered necessary by applicant must be submitted no later than the payment of the issue fee and, to avoid processing delays, should preferably accompany the issue fee. Such submissions should be clearly labeled "Comments on Statement of Reasons for Allowance."

***Conclusion***

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to JONATHAN C. LANGMAN whose telephone number is (571)272-4811. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon-Thurs 8:00 am - 6:30 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jennifer McNeil can be reached on 571-272-1540. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free). If you would like assistance from a USPTO Customer Service Representative or access to the automated information system, call 800-786-9199 (IN USA OR CANADA) or 571-272-1000.

JCL

/Timothy M. Speer/  
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